

# SEARLE AND HAND LEAVE WYCOMBE

KEITH SEARLE and Gary Hand will not be playing for Wycombe Wanderers next season, manager Brian Lee announced this week. Both players have signed contracts for other clubs. The manager also revealed he had released full back Paul Griffiths.

Centre forward Searle, who has been at the club for five years, has decided to leave Wycombe and accept a contract with Enfield, who were pipped by Wanderers on goal average for the Isthmian League title last season. Gary Hand will return to one of his former clubs — Hendon.

With Tony Horseman, Searle formed one of the most respected and potent striking forces in the league. For five years they have been respected by defenders throughout the league circuit, accounting for up to 80 goals a season between them.

Searle left Wycombe for a time two seasons ago, but returned after a short stay with Hendon. As he is now under contract at Enfield, there will be no coming back for him this year, even if he wanted to. Many of his finest hours came while with the Blues. He won his first England cap when he scored the winning goal for his country against West Germany in the U.E.F.A. Amateur Cup at Wembley.

But along with that happy memory, Keith will also remember the championship winning goal against Dagenham on the final day of the season last term. He scored in the 85th minute to clinch the match. That goal completed a gradual improvement after snapped knee ligaments threatened to end his football career last

season at Walthamstow. Searle's character in fighting back to fitness will be sadly missed at Loakes Park next season.

Gary Hand spent only one season with Wanderers but certainly made his mark during that time. He made the left back spot his own after some sterling performances in the early part of the season but was never really totally happy at Wycombe. His choice of Hendon is no real surprise but again, the Blues will find Hand a hard man to replace.

Young Paul Griffiths worked as hard as anyone during his spell at Loakes Park but manager Lee felt it would be unfair to keep him in his squad for next year. "Paul did well on occasions but it would have been wrong of me to have him for another season."

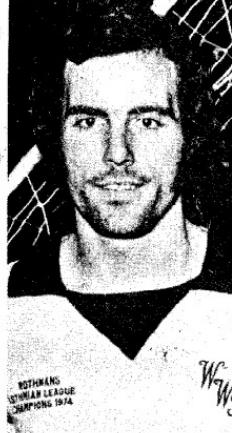
Another player who Blues supporters will not see so often next season is Graham Mackenzie. The red haired midfield player is to study at St. Paul College, Cheltenham and will turn out only occasionally for Wycombe as a non-contract player.

But while these players have left Wanderers, Brian Lee also announced that 12 others had been offered contracts. At the moment the manager is not willing to reveal their names.

Talking of the loss of Keith Searle, Mr. Lee said: "It can only be described as disastrous. I regard Keith as the finest

centre forward in amateur football and he was playing as well as ever at the end of last season.

"Gary Hand also made a major contribution to last year's championship and he did his part well, especially at the start of the campaign. But players of this calibre, like Delaney, Powell, Suddaby and Pritchard, have gone in the past and we have come through."



KEITH SEARLE

## Senior Cup saga is now closed

WYCOMBE Wanderers are to accept the five punishments handed out by the Berks and Bucks F.A. for the club's refusal to accept the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after beating Thatcham at Chesham on Easter Monday.

Club chairman Jack Smethurst wrote to the Berks and Bucks asking for an explanation after the club had at first been censured by the Football Association and then further punished by the county F.A. He received a reply from county chairman Mr. Doug Goodchild who referred to the rules the club had broken and invited a club representative to the A.G.M. of the Berks and Bucks F.A. at Slough Town's clubhouse on Saturday.

The five punishments handed out by the county were A) Wycombe Wanderers expelled from last season's Senior Cup, B) Thatcham to receive the trophy, C) Players plaques to be retained by the B. and B. D) Wycombe's gate receipts from the final to be retained by the B. and B. E) Wycombe to enter the Senior Cup at the first round stage next season.

Wanderers will not be sending a representative to the County F.A.'s A.G.M. on Saturday and now regard the matter as closed.

# 40 years service

WYCOMBE WANDERERS Supporters and Social Club chairman, Ron Fisher, congratulated the players for their highly successful season at the club's annual general meeting at Loakes Park on Wednesday evening. And during the evening, the club president Jack Bayliss was presented with a £50 cheque for over 40 years service.

Mr. Fisher said in his opening speech, "I must congratulate the players on the magnificent performances they produced during the past season and especially for their efforts in the cup matches. I would also like to congratulate them on their entertaining football which was a credit to watch."

Treasurer Jack Richardson discussed the year's income and expenditure account before it was announced by the chairman that Mr. Richardson would be standing down from his position in the supporters club. However, although Mr. Richardson is leaving after 18 years, his position will be kept in the family as his son, Chris, was elected as new treasurer.

The treasurer reported that there had been a considerable increase in profits on the kiosks and tea bars and that the income was up by £523 on last year. But due to the club paying £275 for the players' and their wives' dinner-dance tickets and also £351 for the players' blazers, the total profit for the season was down by £157 on the preceding year.

One of the stalwarts of the club, president Jack Bayliss, was rewarded for his continual efforts when he was presented with a £50 cheque. Mr. Fisher, making the presentation, said "Mr. Bayliss has officially been with the club over 40 years and during that time [redacted]

unbroken service. It will be a great honour to me if he would accept a cheque for £50 in appreciation for the work he has done."

Bill Ridgley, one of the founder members of the club in 1926, was made a life member. He remained active within the club until two years ago, in which time he was never off the committee.

**Election of officers:** President — J. Bayliss, chairman — R. Fisher, treasurer — C. Richardson, secretary — A. Page. Re-elected committee members: Mrs. E. Fisher, A. Russell, H. Morell.